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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,508	01/23/2004	Izhar Halahmi	4707-002	5241
22429 7590 08/09/2007 LOWE HAUPTMAN HAM & BERNER, LLP 1700 DIAGONAL ROAD SUITE 300 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER ANTHONY, JOSEPH DAVID	
			ART UNIT 1714	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/09/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/762,508	Applicant(s) HALAHMI ET AL.	
	Examiner Joseph D. Anthony	Art Unit 1714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/24/07 as an amendment.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 17-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2 and 17-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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FINAL REJECTION

1. ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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2. Claims 1-2, 17, 19 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Muroi et al. U.S. Patent Number 5,480,957.

Muroi et al. teach a curing agent for epoxy resins is prepared from latent amine type curing agent, such as 2-methylimidazole (see column 6, lines 21-33) or dicyandiamide (see column 11, lines 55-61) [also see column 1, line 56 to column 2 line 42], and an epoxy (reads on applicant's inert particle B), as well as subsequent modification by a polyisocyanate compound, in such a manner that the curing agent is in the form of small spherical particles (i.e. amine compound/epoxy compound adducts). The particles can be as small as 0.1 microns. This curing agent can be easily dispersed in curing agent masterbatches and curable compositions with minimal effect on their storage stability. The resulting curable compositions have a wide range of applications, including automobile and electronic adhesives, see abstract, column 4, lines 38 to column 5, line 28, column 9, lines 45-62 and the claims. Applicant's claims are deemed to be anticipated over Examples 2-3, 5-13 and 15. Example 2 is especially relevant since it teaches the production of an amine compound/epoxy compound adduct that is a 2-methylimidazole/epoxy compound adduct. Please note that in Example 2, the "2Mz" additive is the latent amine curing agent 2-methylimidazole (see Comparative Example 1 for definition). The particle size of the formed 2-methylimidazole/epoxy compound adduct is 0.21 μm which meets applicant's claimed particle size limitation.

3. Claims 1-2 and 17-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ahsan U.S. Patent Number 6,822,341.

Ahsan teaches a latent catalyst particularly useful in epoxy molding compositions for use in electronic packaging materials is provided. The latent catalyst is in the form of a curative represented by a combination of an inorganic-based carrier having an activated surface and a catalyst compound including a moiety capable of accelerating curing of the epoxy resin, such as the reaction product of silica and 1,8-diazobicyclo(5.4.0)undecene-7 (DBU). The activated surface of the inorganic-based carrier includes reactive surface groups capable of bonding to the moiety through a hydrogen bond, and also includes a high surface area porous surface, such that the catalyst compound is sorbed on the activated surface. The invention further provides epoxy compositions including the curative with an epoxy resin and a curing agent for the epoxy resin, which compositions are particularly useful as molding powders for semiconductors with prolonged shelf life stability, see abstract. Applicant's claims are deemed to be clearly anticipated over Ahsan, especially in light of said abstract, Ahsan's claims 1-6, and the disclosure of column 6, lines 38-67.

4. Claims 1-2 and 17-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sussman U.S. Patent Number 3,288,747.

Sussman teaches molding compositions of powdered epoxy resin comprising a filler coated with a normally solid curing agent, see title and abstract. The disclosed curing agents are amine type latent curing agents, see column 3, lines 3-22. The filler materials are inorganic fillers, such as silica, slate, alumina, mica etc., see column 3, lines 34-48.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 5/24/07 with the amendment have been fully considered but they not persuasive to put the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above. Additional examiner comments are set forth next. It seems that applicant's representative has misread the disclosure of Muroi et al. since Muroi et al. clearly teaches applicant's claimed latent curing agents of imidazole (see column 6, lines 21-33) and dicyandiamide (see column 11, lines 55-61) [also see column 1, line 56 to column 2 line 42]. Furthermore, Muroi et al's epoxy compound of the adduct, clearly reads on applicant's inert particle B for at least the following reasons: 1) applicant's own specification clearly teaches that "natural polymer, synthetic polymers" can be used as the inert particle B, see page 7, lines 5-13. Also note that in said section of applicant's specification the functional equivalence between the polymers and inorganic supports is disclosed., 2) Muroi et al's epoxy compound of the amine compound/epoxy compound adduct is clearly non-reactive since the epoxy component (by itself) of the adduct can not cure the epoxy resin when the adduct is added to an epoxy masterbatch., and 3) the abstract of Muroi et al. clearly teaches that the amine compound/epoxy adducts have minimal effect on the storage stability of the epoxy masterbatch. The previously made provisional ODP rejection over copending S.N. 10/762,515 has been dropped due to applicant's amending the claims in said co-pending application.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Prior-Art Cited But Not Applied

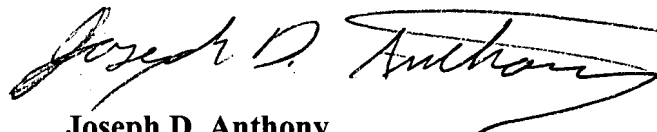
7. Any prior-art reference which is cited on FORM PTO-892 but not applied, is cited only to show the general state of the prior-art at the time of applicant's invention.

Examiner Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Joseph D. Anthony whose telephone number is (571) 272-1117. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's

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supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan, can be reached on (571) 272-1119. The centralized FAX machine number is (571) 273-8300. All other papers received by FAX will be treated as Official communications and cannot be immediately handled by the Examiner.



Joseph D. Anthony
Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1714

8/6/07